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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch.)

NORTH AMERICA

California Tourist Guide and Handbook. Authentic Description of Routes of Travel and Points of Interest in California. By Wells Drury and Aubrey Drury. 354 pp. Maps, ills., index. Western Guidebook Co., Berkeley, Cal. \$1.25. 7 x 4½.

Travelers in California will find this book a helpful guide. It describes in detail the points of interest along the railroad lines of the state. Prospective visitors, in planning an itinerary, would do well to study the Guide for side trips as well as for the main lines of travel. Unfortunately for the best use of the volume the author has neglected to study the needs of the consultant in maps, for a number of these are on too small a scale to be of value.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

Early Days on the Western Slope of Colorado and Campfire Chats with Otto Mears, the Pathfinder. From 1870 to 1883, Inclusive. By Sidney Jocknick. 384 pp. Ills. Carson-Harper Co., Denver, Col., 1913. \$1.75. 8 x 5½.

A flavor of pioneer days is imparted by this account of the author's experiences among the Ute Indians round about the Uncompahgre Valley between 1870 and 1880. The community, not unlike others in the early days, had its strong men and its unscrupulous ones. Jocknick gives a vivid idea, and without doubt a true one, of his hero, Otto Mears, the pathfinder of the San Juan, and of other men. He devotes chapters to the tragedies of the early days when lawlessness could be easily concealed, while the stories of Packer and Howard, the one a criminal of low type and the other a highwayman, have been repeated probably in many places in the great west. We also find here an insight into the workings of the Indian agencies from the point of view both of the agent and the Indian. The book gives a plain, unpretentious account of an early phase of American life.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Physiography of the Rio Grande Valley, New Mexico, in Relation to Pueblo Culture. By E. L. Hewett, J. Henderson and W. W. Robbins. 76 pp. Map, ills. *Bur. of Amer. Ethnol. Bull.* 54. Washington, 1913. 9½ x 6.

This is a collection of three papers. The first by Hewett on the Rio Grande Valley, New Mexico, contains a general description of the geological and physiographic features of the region. The second is a more detailed study of El Rito de los Frijoles, a small and somewhat typical canyon valley on the western side of the Rio Grande. This paper presents three major points, the origin and age of the tufa which forms the sides of the canyon, the slow process of erosion as indicated by the positions of ancient pueblos and the steep character of the south facing wall of the canyon as compared with the more gently sloping north wall, a feature which the author attributes to differential frost action. The third paper is by Henderson and Robbins on Climate and Evidences of Climatic Changes. The belief in a slow desiccation of this region is based on historical, botanical and geological evidence. The ruins in the valley point to a considerable population a few centuries ago; these people raised corn where corn cannot be grown to-day; there appear to have been extensive lakes formerly where the ratio of evaporation

to precipitation does not now permit them; and the glaciers which have disappeared or are receding in the Southern Rockies seem to indicate a change in climate which is probably still in progress. These papers supplement one another and form an interesting and valuable contribution.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Conquest of Mount McKinley. The Story of Three Expeditions through the Alaskan Wilderness to Mount McKinley, North America's highest and most inaccessible Mountain. By Belmore Browne. Appendix by Herschel C. Parker. xvii and 381 pp. Maps, ills., index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1913. \$3.50. 9 x 6½.

This book not only chronicles a feat of mountaineering but also gives to the public the final word concerning the alleged ascent of McKinley by Dr. Cook. The story includes three attempts to scale the peak. The first expedition, in 1906, when Dr. Cook led the party, approached the mountain from the south by way of the Yentna River; the second expedition, in 1910, tried to reach the top from the southeast; and the final expedition, in 1912, attacked the peak from the north. It was a month or so after the failure of the 1906 expedition that Cook announced his success in reaching the summit. The author has inserted convincing proof (if any one needed it) of Dr. Cook's hoax, in the pictures opposite pages 114 and 122 which are taken from the same position as Cook's McKinley pictures, and which reproduce the scenes of pictures printed by him in his book. Brown, during the 1910 trial, located the scenes of Cook's fake pictures. The location of these pictures was found to be only 5,300 feet above sea level and over twenty miles from Mount McKinley.

The first and second expeditions were not successful as far as Mount McKinley was concerned. Yet the account of a failure of this kind is as illuminating and interesting as that of a success and the reader will not be disappointed in the earlier pages of the book which embody the results of the two attempts, as adventure, feats of skill and endurance and thrilling experiences are not lacking.

The 1912 expedition, profiting by the earlier failures, was well equipped to make a last, hard effort. The ascent of the north slope is a particularly interesting story. There were days of hunting before McKinley was reached, a particularly vivid account of an avalanche with a series of five illustrations showing stages of its approach, and the common experiences with crevasses and storms. The party were able to reach 11,000 feet with a dog team, and here was the main camp from which, by a series of stages which lasted altogether twenty-eight days, the work of conquest was pushed. At the end an elevation of about 20,300 feet was reached, the last hard climb was done and only a gentle slope separated them from the coveted goal when the party was forced to turn back on account of a blizzard of unusual intensity. Although the credit for reaching the top of Mount McKinley goes to a later explorer, the credit of the conquest of the peak belongs to the members of the 1912 expedition. The book is a worthy addition to the library of mountaineering, and the artist-author has not only written an interesting story but he has, with his paintings and drawings, illuminated many phases of the experience of the

ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Wilderness of the Upper Yukon. A Hunter's Explorations for Wild Sheep in Sub-Arctic Mountains. By Charles Sheldon. xxi and 354 pp. Ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1911. \$3. 9½ x 6½.

This account, in the main a hunter's tale, gives considerable information about the territory north of Skaguay in the Yukon Territory, ranging from the Coast Ranges to the Ogilvie Rockies. The first impression of the book is altogether unfavorable owing to the character of some of the illustrations, which are of no value except as a memento of the killing ability of the author. The text gives a saner idea of the hunting trip. As readable accounts of the area are few in number, this book will be to many a source of information. It must be noted, however, that the author was solely interested in